

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A solid pigment in the form of a powder for a powder coating composition, which powder is preparation comprising: made by the process of:

(A) ~~50 to 85% by weight of at least one pigment, based on the total weight of the solid pigment preparation;~~ and

(B) ~~at least one carrier material selected from the group consisting of oligomers and polymers which have a glass transition temperature > 30°C and a melting point or melting range below their decomposition temperature,~~

~~wherein the solid pigment preparation is prepared by forming a pigment preparation by dispersing 50 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of the pigment preparation, the of at least one pigment (A) in the melt of the at least one carrier material (B) selected from the group consisting of oligomers and polymers which have a glass transition temperature greater than 30°C and a melting point or melting range below their decomposition temperature for from 0.5 to 5 hours in a discontinuously operating dispersing apparatus with a power input of from 0.1 to 1.0 kW/kg to form a mixture (A/B), and then discharging the mixture (A/B) from the dispersing apparatus and allowing it to cool and solidify;~~

~~pulverizing or granulating the solidified mixture (A/B) to obtain pigment particles that have an average particle size of 1 to 200 µm;~~

~~dispersing the pigment particles in a solvent or solvents (C) to form a dispersion; applying the dispersion to the surface of dimensionally stable particles with partial, substantially complete, or complete evaporation of the solvent or solvents (C) to form coated dimensionally stable particles in the form of a powder.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 1, wherein the pigments (A) ~~are~~is selected from the group consisting of organic, inorganic, transparent, opaque, color, effect, fluorescent, phosphorescent, electrically conductive, and magnetically shielding pigments, transparent metal powders, opaque metal powders, organic fillers and nanoparticles, inorganic fillers and nanoparticles, transparent and opaque fillers and nanoparticles.

5. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 1, wherein the oligomers and polymers (B) have a glass transition temperature of between 30 and 200°C.

6. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 1, wherein the oligomers and polymers (B) do not decompose within a temperature range of at least 100°C above their glass transition temperature.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 31, having wherein the dispersion has a solids content of from 20 to 80% by weight.

10. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 1, further comprising constituent (D) selected from the group consisting of additives and dyes.

11. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 10, wherein the additives are selected from the group consisting of crosslinking agents, UV absorbers, light stabilizers, free-radical scavengers, devolatilizers, slip additives, polymerization inhibitors, crosslinking catalysts, thermolabile free-radical initiators, photoinitiators, thermally curable reactive diluents, reactive diluents curable with actinic radiation, adhesion promoters, leveling agents, film-forming auxiliaries, flame retardants, corrosion inhibitors, free-flow aids, waxes, and flattening agents and mixtures thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The pigment preparation of claim 1, wherein the dispersing apparatus is a kneading apparatus.

13-15 (Cancelled)

16-22. (Cancelled)

23-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A substrate coated with a powder coating composition comprising the pigment of according to claim 231, where said substrate is selected from the group consisting of interior and exteriors of transportation vehicles including at least one of aircraft, rail vehicles, watercraft, and automobiles, components of transportation vehicles, building interiors and exteriors, doors, windows, furniture, hollow glassware, pipelines, coils, containers, mechanical, optical, and electrical components; household appliances, boilers, radiators; flanges, valves, wall-fitted wardrobes, bed frames, insulation boxes, fence posts, garden furniture, traffic barriers, road signs, shopping baskets, inserts for dishwashers, brake cylinders, laboratory equipment, and chemical plants.

29. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the powder is substantially free from organic solvents and is free-flowing with a residual volatile solvent content of less than or equal to 15% by weight.

30. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein at least two materially different dispersions are applied simultaneously or successively to the surface of the dimensionally stable particles.

31. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dimensionally stable particles comprise finished pigmented particles.

32. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dimensionally stable particle is a universal powder that is coatable with any of a wide variety of dispersions.

33. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dimensionally stable particles comprises functional constituents (D) comprising crosslinking agents, photoinitiators, or combinations thereof.

34. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dimensionally stable particles comprise a photoinitiator and an actinic-radiation-curable binder or comprise at least one thermally self-crosslinking binder.

35. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dimensionally stable particles comprise at least one dual-cure binder or comprise at least one thermally curable binder and at least one actinic-radiation curable binder.

36. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dispersion is applied by spraying.

37. (New) The pigment of claim 1 wherein the dispersion is applied to the dimensionally stable particles in a fluidized bed.

38. (New) The pigment of claim 37 wherein the coated dimensionally stable particles are discharged from the fluidized bed and optionally returned to the fluidized bed in which they are coated with the same dispersion and/or with other dispersions.

39. (New) A pigment in the form of a powder for a powder coating composition, which powder is made by the process of:

forming a pigment preparation by dispersing 50 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of the pigment preparation, of at least one pigment (A) in a melt of at least one carrier material (B) selected from the group consisting of oligomers and polymers which have a glass transition temperature greater than 30°C and a melting point or melting range below their decomposition temperature for from 0.5 to 5 hours in a discontinuously operating dispersing apparatus with a power input of from 0.1 to 1.0 kW/kg to form a mixture (A/B), and then discharging the mixture (A/B) from the dispersing apparatus and allowing it to cool and solidify;

pulverizing or granulating the solidified mixture (A/B) to obtain pigment particles that have an average particle size of 1 to 200 μm ;

dispersing the pigment particles in a solvent or solvents (C) to form a dispersion; and

applying the dispersion to the surface of dimensionally stable particles in a fluidized bed with partial, substantially complete, or complete evaporation of the solvent or solvents (C) to form coated dimensionally stable particles in the form of a powder, wherein the dimensionally stable particles comprises a polymer that is curable thermally and/or with actinic radiation.

40. (New) A pigment in the form of a powder for a powder coating composition, which powder is made by the process of:

forming a pigment preparation by dispersing 50 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of the pigment preparation, of at least one organic or inorganic color pigment (A) in a melt of at least one carrier material (B) selected from the group consisting of oligomers and polymers which have a glass transition temperature greater than 30°C and a melting point or melting range below their decomposition temperature for from 0.5 to 5 hours in a discontinuously operating dispersing apparatus with a power input of from 0.1 to 1.0 kW/kg to form a mixture (A/B), and then discharging the mixture (A/B) from the dispersing apparatus and allowing it to cool and solidify;

pulverizing or granulating the solidified mixture (A/B) to obtain pigment particles that have an average particle size of 1 to 200 µm;

dispersing the pigment particles in a solvent or solvents (C) to form a dispersion; applying simultaneously or successively to the surface of the dimensionally stable particles at least two materially different dispersions in a fluidized bed with partial, substantially complete, or complete evaporation of the solvent or solvents (C) to form coated dimensionally stable particles in the form of a powder, wherein the dimensionally stable particles are unpigmented and comprise a polymer that is curable thermally and/or with actinic radiation.